

Ride BART, save money with Commuter Check

Looking for a New Year's resolution that's good for you, good for the environment and can save you hundreds of dollars? Look no farther than Commuter Check!

Commuter Check allows commuters to pay for BART



tickets with pre-tax dollars. You can use up to \$105 of pre-tax income monthly to pay for transit expenses. Commuter Check already has 175,000 transit riders and 7,000 employers across the country enrolled as members and has delivered over \$400 million in transit benefits since 1990.

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Ride BART to MLK Day celebration

BART trains will carry riders from throughout the Bay Area to Civic Center Station on Monday, January 16 for Northern California's largest celebration honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Martin Luther King Day celebration takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove St. in San Francisco near the Civic Center BART station.

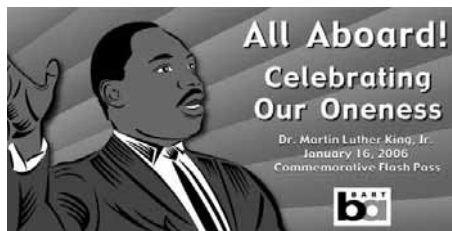
For the seventh consecutive year, BART will provide a limited number of commemorative Martin Luther King Day Flash Passes

distributed free through the Northern California Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Committee. Flash passes are good for BART rides to and from the event.

For flash pass information, call 510/268-3777 or visit nocalmlk.org. To plan your BART trip, visit www.bart.gov and use the online QuickPlanner. BART

will be running on a regular weekday schedule on January 16.

The Martin Luther King Day celebration will feature live entertainment, arts and crafts, food and special guests.



FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Gradual fare increases help BART keep pace with inflation...

You are no doubt aware BART fares increased at the beginning of the year. We at BART appreciate that it often seems as if your budget is being stretched tighter and tighter all the time. In fact, we live under the same budget pressures.

In order to help meet our budget needs, BART has adopted a plan to gradually increase fares every two years by an amount based largely on the rate of inflation. For your planning purposes, this is the first of four fare increases through 2012.

Be assured that we are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient. Also be aware that your fare dollars are the single most important contribution to BART's bottom line. BART relies far less on federal, state and local tax dollars compared with most other transit agencies.

We appreciate your continued support.

Thomas E. Margro, General Manager

Fulfill your hoop dreams with BART

Local basketball action heats up this month for hoops fans, college and pro.

Take BART to Coliseum Station as the Warriors host some of the top names in the NBA. Golden State takes on Shaquille O'Neil and the Miami Heat (Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.), Kobe Bryant and the L.A. Lakers (Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.), Ray Allen and the Seattle SuperSonics (Jan. 16, 1:00 p.m.) and LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers (Jan. 20, 7:30)

The Warriors January home schedule concludes with matchups against the L.A. Clippers (Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.), Dallas Mavericks (Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.) and Portland



Trail Blazers (Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.). All Warriors games are at the Arena in Oakland.

For Cal Basketball, take BART to Downtown Berkeley Station. Haas Pavilion (Bancroft Way) is just a 5-minute walk away. Visit calbears.com or call 800/GO BEARS for complete ticket and schedule information.

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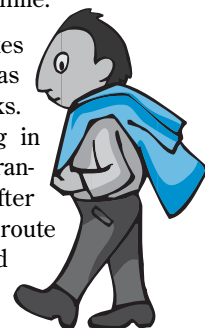
Take a walk to your BART station!

This is the time of year when many of us resolve to lose a little weight and live healthier lives. BART customers can take a big step toward achieving those goals with the free exercise provided by walking to the BART station.

Walking to or from BART is an easy way to add calorie-burning exercise to your commute, shopping trip or ride to visit friends. A brisk 30-minute walk, five days a week can burn up to 1,000 calories and leave you feeling healthy and invigorated. Over

35,000 riders walk to BART every day, many covering at least a mile.

Be sure your walk takes you through safe areas with pedestrian sidewalks. In many areas, walking in the morning but using transit or other wheels after dark is wisest. Find a route that works for you and take to your feet—your waist will thank you!



Join the "RideNow" Carpool Program!

Do you ride BART from the Dublin/Pleasanton station and sometimes need a ride? Can you pick up a fellow BART passenger on your way to the station? If so, there's a new, free service called RideNow to connect you instantly with other BART riders for casual carpools to and from the Dublin/Pleasanton Station.

The RideNow pilot program is the first of its kind at BART and volunteers are needed! RideNow users receive reserved parking in special RideNow parking spaces within steps of the station. Participants also receive free BART tickets for using the program! With free BART tickets and reserved parking, why not give it a try?

For more details and to sign up for RideNow, visit www.ridenow.org.



"Commuter Check" continued

You can even take an additional \$42, \$63 or \$84 (depending on boarding station) to pay for BART parking and save 40% off the monthly cost (up to \$300 annually!). The IRS has a separate maximum monthly amount for parking at transit facilities, and it can be given in addition to the current monthly transit benefit of \$105.

It's easy to earn Commuter Check benefits. Just sign up with your employer and start receiving your Commuter Checks monthly. The savings are immediate, not given out at the end of the year.

If your employer is not already enrolled, tell your boss Commuter Checks can save the company up to \$1,260 in payroll taxes per employee each year.

For more information, call Commuter Check at 800/559-7909 or visit their website at commutercheck.com.

"Hoop Dreams" continued

The Cal men take on Washington (Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.) and Washington State (Jan. 28, 3:00 p.m.) before hosting arch-rival Stanford (Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.). The Cal women's basketball schedule includes Arizona State (Jan. 19, 7:00 p.m.) and Arizona (Jan. 22, 1:00 p.m.).

Don't foul out! Take BART to the game.

GOOD TIMES

The Pirates of Penzance

The Lamplighters

Jan. 13-22:

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
700 Howard St., San Francisco
www.lamplighters.org, 415/978-2787

BART: *Powell*

Feb. 2-5:

Dean Lesh Regional Center for the Arts
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
www.lamplighters.org, 925/943-7469

BART: *Walnut Creek*

Dutiful Frederic has agreed to apprentice with pirates until his 21st birthday. But being born on Feb. 29, he can't be free and independent until age 80. Will his beloved Mabel wait? This uproarious operetta features some of the most popular Gilbert & Sullivan songs ever written.

The Latino Baseball Story: Photographs by José Luis Villegas

Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street
www.museumca.org, 510/238-2200

BART: *Lake Merritt*

Through May 28: Every day young Latinos dream of becoming baseball stars in the United States. Photographer José Luis Villegas and journalist Marcos Bretón document their hard work, talent, courage, and even homesickness and disappointments in their book "Home is Everything," featuring the life and early career of Miguel Tejada. The exhibition includes 60 photographs from the book.

1906 Earthquake: A Disaster in Pictures

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

151 Third Street

www.sfmoma.org, 415/357-4000

BART: *Powell or Montgomery*



Jan. 21-May 30: The great 1906 earthquake coincided with a particularly rich moment in the history of photography. This exhibition explores the wide variety of photographic responses to the disaster.

Shakespeare 2006 – an Elizabethan Evening

San Francisco School of the Arts mainstage
Mainstage, 555 Portola Drive at O'Shaughnessy
www.sfsota-ptsa.org, 415/695-5720

BART: *Glen Park; take Muni 44-O'Shaughnessy across Bosworth from the station to Portola.*

Saturday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.: Top-quality student performers in the 16th Annual Theatre Department Shakespeare Acting Competition, and music of Shakespeare's time and Elizabethan settings presented by the Vocal Department.

BART first major transit agency in U.S. to be led by two African American women

Last month the BART Board of Directors unanimously elected two African American women to the District's most powerful posts—making BART the first major transit agency in U.S. history to be led by two black women.

President Carol Ward Allen and Vice President Lynette Sweet assumed their posts after the nine-member BART Board of Directors cast their votes during the December 15, 2005 Board meeting at BART Headquarters in Oakland. The BART Board is made up of three Directors from each of

the BART District's three counties; San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa. Every year the Board Members elect their Board President and Vice President. Historically, the Board Members who assume the President and Vice President posts will be from a different county than the Board Member who previously held each post.

For more information about the BART Board, visit the Board of Directors section of bart.gov.

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